

IN THE JURY'S HANDS.

NO DECISION AS YET REACHED IN THE CLARK TRIAL.

Commonwealth's Attorney Massey Makes a Brilliant Effort for the State, A Slight Sensation.

DANVILLE, VA., Feb. 16.—Special.—When the hustings court opened at 10 o'clock this morning there was not an inch of standing room unoccupied. The trial of J. T. Clark for the murder of Rev. J. R. Moffett was the attraction. A much larger number of women were present than on any previous day, and they having learned that Judge Aiken does not have any regard for the dinner hour, came prepared for the worst by supplying themselves with healthy lunch baskets. Among those present to-day were Mrs. Berkeley and Mrs. Harrison, wives of two of the lawyers for the defense, and Mrs. Massey, wife of the Commonwealth's attorney, also a dozen or more of the lady members of the late Mr. Moffett's church in North Danville. As many as two hundred country people are in the city for no other purpose than to attend the Clark trial. The court-room three times its present size it would not hold the crowds who flock there to see and hear.

At 10 o'clock, when Judge Aiken took his seat, Mr. N. H. Massey, Commonwealth's attorney, commenced the closing argument for the prosecution. This is the first case of real importance the young attorney has had since he was elected to the position, and it is the general verdict that he has acquitted himself in a manner that reflects credit on his learning and his close application to his work. In presenting the argument of the counsel for the defense, he attacked every weak point with vigor. Then, taking the evidence, he was nearly two hours in presenting the case to the jury from his standpoint. His theory was that Clark came to Danville on the night of the 11th of November, not to look for Moffett, but the copy of Anti-Laborer, and he had no other motive than to see the editor of the paper. At the register office he saw Moffett unexpectedly, and then it was the scheme to murder Moffett, who entered, and it was perfected in his mind. The prisoner, after leaving the register office, went to the street, concealing himself as best he could behind telegraph poles and in the shadows until Moffett went along on his way to the First Baptist church. Then Clark rushed upon him and shot him dead.

Register office, and he was seen by a young attorney argued every point with signal ability, and it is universally conceded that his was the effort of the celebrated Clark case.

Mr. H. G. Moffett, ex-railroad commissioner and Commonwealth's Attorney and a cousin of the deceased prelate, who has been attending the trial, says: "Mr. Massey's speech, which was taken down by a stenographer, will be published in full in pamphlet form, and whatever may be the verdict of the jury that speech will be a complete vindication of J. R. Moffett. At 2:30 P. M. the jury was sent to the room, and counsel submitted questions which the court took an hour to examine and pass upon, and then the case was in the hands of the jury."

Colonel Aiken, the presiding judge, created somewhat of a sensation by requesting that Deputy Sergeant Womack be not allowed to have further charge of the jury, as he estimated that he might bring charges against the jury. Later he said that the charges if proven would be nothing serious, merely a slight indiscretion on the part of the officer, and he had made the request out of abundant precaution. At 5:30 the jury having failed to agree, were taken to their rooms at the hotel, and the court adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow. It is believed they will agree to-night.

COLONEL X. X. CHARTERS DEAD.

Brief Sketch of This Prominent Citizen of Spotsylvania—Other News.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Feb. 16.—Special.—Colonel X. X. Charters, one of the most prominent of Spotsylvania's citizens, died last night at his residence in this city of consumption, aged fifty years. He had been in ill-health for some time, and his death was not unexpected.

Colonel Charters has always been prominent in the affairs of his county, and he had a large acquaintance throughout the country, having been for several terms worthy Master of the National Grand Lodge of the United States, and at the time of his death was a member of the executive committee of that organization and master of the Virginia State Grange.

He was also district deputy treasurer for his county, and a member of the Masonic lodge of which he was a member.

He leaves a widow and one daughter—Mrs. John A. Alsop, of this county.

The funeral will take place from his late residence Friday, and the interment will be in the family burying-ground at Chancellorville.

A little grandson of Mr. Stapleton Jett, of Stafford county, while attempting to take a piece of bread from a dog, had his eyeball bitten out yesterday. He is suffering very much from the wound, and it is certain to lose the sight of the eye.

Mrs. Susan Payne, formerly of this city, but more recently of Baltimore, died a few days ago at her home in the latter city, aged thirty-five years.

The steamer Essex failed to make her regular trip from Norfolk to-day, on account of breakage to a part of her machinery.

The Knights of Pythias have elected Mr. M. P. McDonnell to represent Lodge No. 22, of this city, in the Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, which convenes in Richmond next Monday. Mr. James W. Musselman is the candidate for the position.

There is no improvement in the condition of Mrs. Dr. A. C. Boggett.

CASE NOT PROSECUTED.

End of the Hockaday-Jones Trouble.

Buried Under a Snow-slide.

ROANOKE, VA., Feb. 16.—Special.—The case of G. C. Jones, son of a prominent merchant, indicted for the murder of J. R. Hockaday, a real estate agent of this city, by shooting him several months ago, was ended to-day in the hustings court by a nolle prosequi, Jones having made a written statement satisfactory to the prosecutor, and he, therefore, declining to prosecute.

At the time of the shooting the affair was the talk of the town, on account of the prominence of the principals.

The report telegraphed from Charleston, W. Va., that Mountain Lake, in Giles county, this State, was sinking is a fabrication pure and simple.

J. B. Smith, of Bonanza, seven miles east of this city, was buried under a snow slide near Denver, Colo., on the 16th instant. His body was shipped home yesterday, and is expected to arrive Monday.

John Sale, one of several burglars convicted in Washington a few days ago of safe-blowing, confessed to having robbed the Catholic parsonage of this city on October 28, 1892, of silverware and other articles. He gave Washington's chief of police a diagram of the place he buried the treasure, near Waynesboro, Augusta county, which was sent here, and an officer is now there searching for it. Somehow Sale obtained entrance to the parsonage, and after collecting the silverware presented Father Lynch by his mother, now dead, entered his sleeping department, and at the point of a pistol, demanded the priest's money. The good father told him he had none, and strode toward the unwelcome visitor, who fled.

DEATH OF COLONEL T. J. BOYD.

One of Wytheville's Most Prominent Citizens Passes Away.

WYTHEVILLE, VA., Feb. 16.—Special.—Colonel Thomas Jefferson Boyd, the father of Wytheville alumnus of University of Virginia, for a quarter of a century at the head of the town council,

THE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

MONEY APPROPRIATED IN A SENATE BILL FOR ITS SUPPORT.

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